

This Day is published,
In TWO VOLUMES ROYAL QUARTO,
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A NEW EDITION
OF
Mr. EVELYN'S SILVA:
With NOTES by A. HUNTER, M.D. F.R.S.
To which is added, the TERRA.

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✂ The Editor begs leave to inform the purchasers of the former edition of the Silva, that the following are the only Notes of consequence added to the present impression. The page at the bottom of the respective notes refers to the places of the former edition where these notes come in.

The false ACACIA is titled *Robinia* (*Pseud-Acacia*) *racemis pedicellis unifloris, foliis impari-pinnatis stipulis spinosis*. Sp Pl. 1043. Tournefort calls it, *Pseudo-acacia vulgaris*; Ray names it, *Acacia Americana, siliquis glabris*; and Catesby, *Pseudo-acacia hispida, floribus roseis*.

It is of the Class and Order *Diadelphia Decandria*.

This tree is also a native of North-America. Its branches are armed with strong crooked thorns, and garnished with winged leaves, composed of eight or ten pair of oval lobes terminated by an odd one. They are of a bright green, and sit close to the midrib. The flowers come out from the sides of the branches in pretty long bunches, hanging downward like those of the Laburnum, each flower standing on a slender foot-stalk: These are of the Butterfly, or Pea-blossom kind; are white, and smell very sweet. They appear in June, and when the trees are full of flowers, they make a fine appearance; but they are of short duration, seldom continuing more than a week in beauty. After the flowers fade, the germen becomes an oblong compressed pod, which in warm seasons comes to perfection in England; these ripen late in autumn.

The leaves come out late in the spring, and fall off early in the autumn, which renders this tree less valuable than it would otherwise be.

The false Acacia is best propagated by seeds, which should be sown in a bed of light earth about the latter end of march or the beginning of April; and if the bed has a warm exposure, the plants will appear in six weeks, requiring no other care than keeping them clear from weeds. In this bed the plants should remain till the following spring, when they should be transplanted into the nursery about the end of March, placing them in rows at three feet distance, and a foot and a half asunder in the rows. In this nursery they should remain two years, by which time they will be of size for

transplanting into the places where they are designed to grow. As these trees, when they stand long unremoved, send forth long tough roots, it will be advisable to cut them off when they are transplanted. This operation, however, sometimes occasions their miscarrying.

These trees will grow well almost upon any soil, but they prefer a light sandy ground, in which they have been known to shoot six feet in one year. While the trees are young, they make a fine appearance, being well furnished with leaves; but when old, they are rather unfightly, from the branches being frequently broken by high winds, especially when they happen to stand in an exposed situation. In America this tree is called the Locust Tree. My excellent friend Joseph Harrison, Esq; of Bawtry, has favoured me with the following observations, in a letter dated July 25, 1782. "The
" first experiment that I know of, respecting the application of the timber of the Lo-
" cust Tree, to any purposes in ship-building, was in Virginia, where I resided some
" time about the year 1733: And, there, happening to be acquainted with an inge-
" nious ship-wright, that had been sent over by some merchants of Liverpool to build
" two large ships, I had frequent conversations with him, respecting the qualities of the
" several principal timber-trees of that country. Being a person of observation, he had
" made many useful remarks on that subject; which the nature of his employment
" afforded many opportunities of doing with advantage. He reckoned the Oaks,
" Elms, Ashes, and many other timber-trees common to both countries, were much
" inferior to the same sorts in England: But frequently spoke of the Locust Tree, as
" of extraordinary qualities both in strength and * duration; and used often to say, if
" a sufficient quantity could be had, it would be the best timber he had ever met with
" for building of Ships.—After he had compleated his engagements with his employ-
" ers at Liverpool, he set a small vessel on the stocks for himself; but unluckily, not ha-
" ving a sufficient quantity of iron for the purpose, and none being to be had at that time
" in the country, he was obliged to put a stop to the work, till he bethought himself of
" the following succedaneum. He had formerly (as hinted above) observed the extra-
" ordinary strength and firmness of the Locust Tree, and, on this emergency, took it
" into his head that † Trenails of that timber might be substituted for Iron ‡ Bolts in
" many places where least liable to wrench, or twist, as in fastening the floor-timbers
" to the keel, and the knees to the ends of the beams, which two articles take up a
" large proportion of the iron used in a ship, purposing, when he arrived in England,
" to bore out the Locust Trenails, and drive iron bolts in their stead. When he first in-
" formed me of this scheme, I must own I thought the experiment very hazardous:
" However, as necessity has no law, he put it in practice. The ship was built in that
" manner, loaded, and sailed for Liverpool, where she arrived safe; and though they

* DURATION. This property has been well ascertained by some pieces of Locust Tree, still continuing firm and sound in some old houses in New-England, that were built when the country was first settled.

† TRENAIls or TREE-NAIls, are wooden pins, that fasten the planks to the ribs or timbers;—and to prevent drawing, or the planks starting, they are wedged at both ends, inside and out, so that the strength of a ship depends much on the goodness of the Trenails; and if they are not made of wood that is both hard and tough, they will not endure driving so tight as to bear the strain that lies upon them; for in fact it is the Trenails that hold together the several pieces of which a ship is composed.

‡ BOLTS are round iron pins, used to fasten the floor-timbers to the keel, and the beams that support the decks to the sides of the ship, and on all other occasions where Trenails are not strong enough to bear the strain that is to be supported.

“ met with some blowing weather on the passage, she never made so much water, but
 “ that one pump could easily keep her free. She returned back to Virginia the next
 “ year, when I had an opportunity of being informed by the builder himself (who was
 “ then Captain of her) what had been the result of his project: He said, that during
 “ the passage, especially in blowing weather, he was very attentive in examining the
 “ * Water-ways, as, at that place, weak ships are most liable to work and strain, but
 “ that he could not perceive any thing more than is usual in other vessels. When un-
 “ loaded she was hauled a shore upon the bank, in order to be searched both outside
 “ and inside; when, on the strictest examination, it was found that the Locust Trenails,
 “ that had been substituted instead of Iron Bolts, seemed (to all appearance) to have effec-
 “ tually answered the purpose intended; however, it was thought prudent to take se-
 “ veral of them out and put in bolts in their room: And this operation afforded another
 “ proof of their extraordinary strength and firmness, as they endured to be † backed out
 “ with a Set-Bolt, just as well as though they had been Iron; whereas Oak Trenails are
 “ usually bored out with an auger. The next voyage the ship made was to the West-
 “ Indies, where the Captain died, and with him ended (for the present) any further
 “ prosecution of this matter: For though the success of the above experiment was
 “ known to many, yet (as is frequently the case with new discoveries) none, that I ever
 “ heard of, made any use of Locust Trenails in ship-building till many years after;
 “ though on the goodness of that article greatly depends the strength and durableness
 “ of a ship. I frequently recommended it, when opportunities offered, but all to no
 “ purpose, till about twenty years ago, when I was settled in trade at Rhode-Island,
 “ I persuaded some ship-builders to try the experiment; but notwithstanding all my
 “ endeavours, the use of Locust Trenails still continued to be little practised or known,
 “ till it happened to be adopted by a builder of some eminence at New-York, and of
 “ late years has been introduced into general use there, and in some parts of New-Eng-
 “ land: But as yet the use of the Locust Tree in ship-building is confined to the article
 “ of Trenails, on account of its scarcity; for, was it near as plentiful as Oak, it would
 “ be applied to more purposes, such as ‡ knees, § floor-timbers, || foot-hooks, &c. being
 “ much superior to it, both as to strength and duration; and from its spreading into
 “ branches, affords full as large a proportion of crooks, or compass-timber, as the Oak.

“ The growth of the Locust Tree has of late been much encouraged in North-Ameri-
 “ ca: And here, in England, several Gentlemen have propagated great quantities of it,
 “ particularly Sir George Savile, who has many thousands now growing in his planta-
 “ tions at Rufford; so that in the next generation 'tis probable there may be sufficient

* The WATERWAY is that part of a ship's deck that is next to the sides of the ship; this seam, or joint, is very difficult to keep tight, and in weak vessels will open and shut in carrying sail when it blows hard.

† BACKING out a Bolt, or Trenail, is driving it out by means of a tool called a Set-Bolt, which is an Iron Punch, something smaller than the Bolt, or Trenail, to be taken out, against which it is driven with a heavy blacksmith's sledge or hammer: But Oak Trenails, except such as are very hard and sound, will seldom bear this operation; in which case, they are obliged to bore them out with an auger.

‡ KNEES are those crooked pieces, that, by means of Iron Bolts, fasten the ends of the beams to the sides of the ship.

§ FLOOR-TIMBERS are those ribs or timbers that lie across the keel, and are bolted into it.

|| FOOT-HOOKS are those circular ribs or timbers that form the body of the ship from the floor to the top-timbers: And all pieces of timber that are not straight, are called crooks or compass-timber.

“ for the article of Trenails, which alone would be a considerable improvement in the
“ building of Ships. At present the choicest pieces only of the very best Oak Tim-
“ ber are applied to that purpose ; and as the Oaks of Suffex are generally reckoned
“ the best in England, most ship-wrights (even those in the North) have their Trenails
“ from thence : And the demand for them is so great, that Trenail-making is there be-
“ come a considerable manufacture.

“ The Locust Tree is not only valuable on account of the excellence of its timber,
“ but its leaves also are useful, and afford wholesome food for cattle *. I knew a Gen-
“ tleman in New-England that sowed several Acres for that purpose, which proved
“ a good summer pasture for cows ; it is excellent in that country, where the grass is
“ very apt to fail, from being burnt up by the summer droughts.—Hogs are extremely
“ fond of it, and horses seem to like it.

“ The method of propagating the Locust Tree in New-England is by seeds, suckers,
“ or sets, as Willows are here ; but the first method is the best, as those plants raised
“ from seeds are found to thrive better and produce larger trees than the others. The
“ seeds are first sown in a nursery, and then planted out young into the places where
“ they are to remain.

“ Jonathan Acklom, Esq; of Wiseton, has now in his garden a Locust Tree,
“ which, at three feet from the ground, is four feet ten inches in circumference, and
“ sixty feet high : Also another of nearly the same height, but not so thick ; and in
“ his nursery are several young plants from the seeds of these trees. They are both, at
“ this time, [July 1782] full of flowers, and likely to produce many seeds, if the re-
“ mainder of the summer proves favourable. They were raised from seeds brought
“ from North-Carolina in 1742, so are now just forty years old.” p. 360.

My most excellent and learned friend Dr. Percival of Manchester, in his “ Medi-
cal and Philosophical Essays,” has recorded a melancholy proof of the poisonous
quality of Yew leaves. “ On Friday, March 25, 1774, three children of James Buck-
ley, a labouring man at Longfight, near Manchester, were killed by taking a small
quantity of the fresh leaves of the Yew-tree, or *Taxus Officinalis* of Caspar Bauhine.
The oldest child was five, the second four, and the youngest three years of age : They
were all supposed to be infected with the worms, and this poison was given them by
the recommendation of some ignorant person, as a powerful remedy for that disorder.
The *dried leaves* were first employed ; and a spoonful of them, mixed with brown sugar,
was divided into three equal doses, which the children took at seven o’clock in the
evening. At eight they had each a mess of pottage, prepared of butter-milk, which, ha-
ving been kept several days, was become very sour. No complaints were made by the
children ; nor did any bad effects ensue. Two days afterwards the mother collected
fresh leaves, and administered them in the same dose as before, and at the same hour.
At eight o’clock the children breakfasted of nettle-pottage, that is, oatmeal gruel with
fresh nettles boiled in it, a mess well known in this country. At nine, they began to
be uneasy ; were chilly and listless ; yawned much ; and frequently stretched out their
limbs. The oldest vomited a little, and complained of gripings in his belly ; but the

* There is a dissertation upon this property of the Acacia in one of the foreign Literary Journals : I
think it is the Memoirs of the Imperial Academy at Vienna.

others expressed no signs of pains. The second child died at ten o'clock; the youngest about one; and the oldest at three in the afternoon. No agonies accompanied their dissolution; no swelling of the Abdomen ensued; and after death they had the appearance of being in a placid sleep. These particulars I learned from the unfortunate parents of the children, whose ignorance led them too long and too fatally to rely on the trifling and inefficacious means of relief, suggested to them by their neighbours." p. 381.

The scales of the Larch cones are so closely glewed together, that it is with the greatest difficulty we can separate them without bruising the seeds, which renders them unfit for vegetation. It is on this account that little good seed can be procured from the wholesale dealers. Mr. Speechly, Gardener to his Grace the Duke of Portland, has communicated to me the following method of raising Seedling Larches, which at once obviates all the difficulties complained of, and secures to the Planter a certain crop at a moderate expence.

"Let the cones be collected in the month of November, or beginning of December, and when gathered, lay them in heaps about six inches thick, in a shady, but exposed situation, taking care that the heaps be not too large, which would occasion mouldiness. In this manner let them be exposed to the weather 'till the beginning of May, which is the properest season for laying them upon the beds, as there is not power in the sun before that time to cause the cones to expand sufficiently.

"Then let beds of four feet in breadth be prepared on ground newly dug; a rich, light, and sandy soil is the most proper. The mould should be raked from the middle to the sides of the beds, so as to form a kind of ridge on each side to prevent the cones, or their seed, from falling into the Alleys, which should be two feet in breadth for the convenience of the weeder. The beds being thus finished, the cones should be so disposed, that every part of the surface shall be covered; and if a few cones are dispersed upon the others, the seeds will be shed with greater certainty.

"If the weather comes warm and dry, the cones will soon expand, so that it will be proper to examine the beds frequently, to see when a sufficient quantity of seed is shed. The cones may then be removed to a second bed, prepared in the same manner as the former; but before they are taken off it will be proper to give them a shake in a coarse sieve, which will occasion a considerable quantity of seed to fall from them, especially if this operation be performed in the middle of the day, for the morning and evening dews contract the cones, and prevent their parting with the seed. As soon as the cones are removed from the beds, let the seed be covered with a little fine mould, which should be sifted about a quarter of an inch thick over every part. Should the weather become hot and dry, a few gentle waterings will greatly promote the growth of the young plants. After this, nothing more will be required but keeping the beds clear of weeds. The cones may be removed from the second to a third bed, and great success has even been had upon a fourth bed. No time can be fixed for the laying of the cones upon the beds; it depends entirely upon the dryness and warmth of the weather."

And here it will be necessary to remark, that a plentiful stock of seed is absolutely ne-

cessary, in order to obtain a full crop of plants; for when these stand thin on the ground, they are very liable to be thrown out by the frost in the first winter. A full crop should rise like a brush; the roots will then be matted together, forming a tough bed that will resist the severest winter.—Plants raised in the manner here recommended, rise with greater vigour than those sown in the common way; from which it appears that the seed of the Larch, and probably we may say the same of all the Pine tribe, decreases in its vegetative power, after it has been taken from the cones. And it is not improbable but that keeping the cones *dry* during the winter, may be productive of the same bad effects.

Mr Speechly has not the least doubt but that the various kinds of Firs and Pines may be raised in the same easy and profitable manner; though his experiments have hitherto been confined to the Larch. p. 269.

It often happens that old trees either become bad bearers, or cast their fruit before it comes to maturity. In either of these cases, let a trench be cut about two feet deep, round the tree, and about four feet from the bole. Let this trench be filled with fresh mould, enriched with cow dung; and as the large roots may be raised without inconvenience, let the compost be put under them so as to make the bed, over which the tree stands, as rich as possible. At the same time, let the old wood be cut from the head of the tree, in order that the young wood may have space to grow in. These operations being judiciously conducted, you will, in a few years, have an old tree converted into a young one. Let it also be observed that, if you expect plenty of fruit, you must never permit the ground to be cropp'd near the tree, for by the spade, the feeding fibres of the roots will be cut off at the time when the fruit requires the utmost nourishment.

The Mulberry is remarkable for putting out its leaves late, so that when they appear, the gardener may take it for granted, that all danger from frosts is over: He may then expose his Greenhouse Plants. *Cum germinare videris Morum, injuriam postea frigoris timere nolito.* PLIN.

Ovid, on account of the blood-red appearance of its fruit, has chosen the Mulberry-tree for the scene of his affecting story of Pyramus and Thisbe; and indeed no other tree could have given so much assistance to the imagination of the Poet. Horace advises us to finish our dinner with ripe Mulberries:

Ille salubres
Æstates peraget, qui nigris prandia Moris
Finiat, ante gravem quæ legerit arbore solem. p. 304.

RHAMNUS (*Paliurus*) aculeis geminatis: inferiore reflexo, floribus trigynis. Lin. Sp. Pl. 281. *Christ's Thorn.* It is of the class and order *Pentandria Monogynia*.

The PALIURUS is supposed to be the plant that composed the Crown that was placed upon the head of Christ at his Crucifixion; but Dr. Hasselquist, who had great opportunities of examining the plants of the Holy Land, is of opinion that it was a species of *Zizyphus* which grows in great plenty in the neighbourhood of Jerusalem. It is a very thorny plant, and is called by Linnæus *Rhamnus aculeis geminatis rectis, foliis ovatis*.

Sp. Pl. 282. The learned Dr. Pearce, late Lord Bishop of Rochester, sees the whole of this transaction in a very different light. And as his own words will best explain his opinion, I shall here transcribe them from his most excellent work, intitled, "A Commentary upon the Four Evangelists." "The *ακανθων* may as well "be the plural genitive case of the word *ακανθω* as of *ακανθη*: if of the latter, it is "rightly translated of *Thorns*, but the former word signifies what we call *Bears-foot*, "and the French *Branche Ursine*. This is not of the Thorny kind of plants, but is "soft and smooth. Virgil calls it *Mollis Acanthus*, (Ecl. iii. 45. and Georg. iv. 137): "So does Pliny Sec. Epist. v. 6. and Pliny the elder, in his Nat. Hist. xxii. 22. "(p. 277. Edit. Hard. fol.) says that it is *lævis*, smooth, and that it is one of those "plants which are cultivated in gardens. I have somewhere read (but cannot at present recollect where) that this soft and smooth herb was very common in and about "Jerusalem. I find nothing in the New Testament said concerning this crown, which "Pilate's soldiers put upon the head of Jesus, to incline one to think that it was made "of Thorns, and intended (as is usually supposed) to put him to pain. The reed "put into his hand, and the scarlet robe on his back, were only meant as marks of "mockery and contempt. One may also reasonably judge by the soldiers being said "to platt this crown, that it was not composed of such twigs and leaves as were of "a thorny nature. I do not find that it is mentioned by any one of the primitive "Christian Writers, as an instance of the cruelty used towards our Saviour before "he was led to his crucifixion, till the time of Tertullian, who lived after Jesus's "death at the distance of above one hundred and sixty years. He indeed seems to have "understood *ακανθων* in the sense of *thorns*, and says, De coron. milit. Sect. xiv. "(Edit. Pomel. Franck. 1597.) *quale, oro te, Jesus Christus sertum pro utraque sexu* "subiit? *Ex spinis, opinor, et tribulis*. The total silence of Polycarp, Barnabas, "Clem. Romanus, and all the other Christian Writers, whose works are now extant, "and who wrote before Tertullian, in this particular, will give some weight to incline one to think that this crown was not platted with *thorns*." p. 409.

Some Critics, upon this passage of St. John, (a) taking the Hyssop of Judea to be the same plant and of the same growth with ours, have conceived, either that the Hyssop was not used as the means of lifting up the sponge, or, that the word *Hyssop* is not the true reading of the text. These two opinions have given rise to many ingenious observations and conjectures which it is no part of our business to retail. The following remarks, perhaps, may incline the reader to think that the Hyssop of Judæa, that is, *azoub*, was not the same with our Hyssop, or, however, of a much superior growth, and therefore, that the *καλαμ* of St. Matthew, (b) and the *ύσσωπ* of St. John, may be the same.

The Jews reckon four, Kimchi says seven, species of Hyssop.—It appears from the Talmud, that Hyssop was gathered not only for the use of the table, but also for *wood*, *i. e.* I suppose, they used it for *fuel*, as the Egyptians did the reed and the papyrus (c): it is mentioned also among the reeds and boughs, with which the Jews covered their

^a John xix. 29.—^b Matt. xxvii. 48.—^c Ulpian in Digest. lib. xxxii. leg. 55. sect. 5. Ed. Amst. Corporis juris civilis 1700, p. 573. vol. 1.

booths at the feast of Tabernacles.—In the 1 Kings iv. 33. Hyssop of one species, though it stands opposed to the cedar of Lebanon, appears to have been class'd by Solomon among *trees*. It is no objection to this remark, that it is called the Hyssop that *springeth out of the wall*, for the original might, with equal justice, have been rendered *that groweth AGAINST or BY the wall*; and, perhaps, *that groweth upon ruins*, viz. out of the rubbish; or, *that groweth upon, or by the ramparts*, viz. of Jerusalem, or any other city, that is, of which there is abundance without the walls of the city, or which is known to grow in such situations. It is true that the word, which is here translated *trees*, appears from a passage in the book of Joshua, (^d) to comprehend under it the *stalks of flax*: In this, however, there is nothing inconsistent with the opinion that the *Hyssop of the wall* was an arboresecent plant, holding, according to Solomon's arrangement, the lowest place in that class, of which the Cedar of Lebanon held the highest: for why may not the flax of Palestine have been as much a tree as the mustard of it was? However, if any thing that was called *Hyssop* in the East, was of a growth as great only as that of *our flax*, St. John's ὕσσωπός may be the same with the καλαμὸς of St. Matthew; for it might afford a stalk of length and strength sufficient to raise the sponge to the mouth of a person hanging on the cross. But there is reason to believe *more* than this concerning the *Hyssop of the wall*; for if it had not been a tree properly so called, the *Seventy*, (^e) and *Josephus*, (^f) who could not but be acquainted with the ordinary productions of their own country, in translating this passage, could never have rendered, by the terms ξύλον and δένδρον, that Hebrew word *Otz*, that comprehends both the Cedar and the Hyssop. To this we may add, that *Isaac Ben Omran*, (^g) according to *Bochart's* Latin version of his Arabic, says, "That the dry Hyssop grows upon the mountains of Jerusalem, and extends its branches over the ground to the length of a cubit, or near it." *Ben Omran* was upon the spot; he speaks from his own knowledge, and I apprehend that his cubit wanted but two or three inches of two English feet. *Christ* was crucified upon the mountains where this *Hyssop* grew, and there can be no doubt that if the *branch* was not sufficient for the purpose of which St. John speaks, the *stem*, however, could not *but* be so.—Suppose the Hyssop of the East to be the same plant with ours, that it might, nevertheless, be of much larger growth, seems probable, from this circumstance, that the *mustard* was. *Lightfoot* and *Tremellius* have quoted two passages from the *Talmud*, in one of which we are told of a Mustard-tree, one of the boughs of which covered the tent of a potter: and in the other, of another tree of the same kind, the owner of which was wont to climb it, as men climb up a fig-tree. Now, though these stories may deserve no *farther* credit, yet certainly so much is due to them, as to induce us to believe that the Mustard was a large, tall, strong, plant. To have feigned such exaggerations concerning a plant which never had these characters, could only have discredited and disgraced both the authors and the propagators of the story. Pliny, in the ninth chapter of the nineteenth book of his *Natural History*, says, that at *Rosea*, in the country of the Sabines, the hemp plant grows to the height of a tree. And *Maldonat*, a Spanish Commentator, says, that in Spain he has often seen the Mustard used instead of wood for heating large ovens to bake bread: that he has seen large woods of Mustard, (*magnas sylvas*) and birds sitting upon

^d Joshua ii. 6.—^e Greek version of 1 Kings iv. xxxiii.—^f Joseph Antiq. Jud. lib. viii. cap. 2. sect. 5. p. 419. 1 vol. Ed. Haverc.—^g Bochart Hierozoicon. 1 P. lib. ii. cap. 50. p. 590.

the trees, though he never observed that they built their nests in them. To this we may add what is said of the *Milium* and the *Sesamum* by *Herodotus*, ^(h) whose credulity, as to what he heard, is indeed blameable enough; but whose veracity, as to what he saw, is not to be called in question. Speaking of the country about *Babylon*, he says, "How great a tree proceeds from the *Milium*, and from the *Sesamum*, though I know certainly, I will not say, being well persuaded that with those who have never been in this country, what I have said of its wheat and barley will meet with little credit." Innumerable instances may be produced to shew that soil and climate are capable of making *that* a large tree in one country, which is only a shrub in another; and why may not the same law operate with the same force upon the *herbaceous* vegetable? Nay soil alone, in the *same* climate, produces a wonderful diversity of dimension. The Marygold, which, in a moist and fat earth, rises two feet high, scarce exceeds the same number of inches in a dry and gravelly soil. p. 509.

It is remarked by many writers, that the climate of modern Europe is much warmer than that of the antient, and as a proof of its being so, we need only compare the testimonies of the most authentic antient writers with our own observations and experience. The Abbé du Bos observes, upon the climate of Italy, that it is warmer at present than in antient times. "The annals of Rome tell us, that in the year 480, ab. U. C. the winter was so severe, that it destroyed the trees. The Tyber froze at Rome, and the ground was covered with snow forty-five days. When Juvenal describes a superstitious woman, he represents her as breaking the ice of the Tyber, that she might perform her ablutions:

Hybernum fracta glacie descendit in amnem,
Ter matutino Tyberi mergetur.

"He speaks of the freezing of the river as a common event. Many passages in Horace suppose the streets of Rome full of snow and ice. We should have had more certainty with regard to this point, had the antient Romans known the use of Thermometers. But their writers, without intending it, give us information sufficient to convince us, that the winters are now more temperate there than formerly. At present the Tyber no more freezes at Rome than the Nile at Cairo. The citizens of Rome esteem the winter very rigorous if the snow lies two days, and if one sees for eight and forty hours a few icicles hanging from a fountain that has a North exposition." Ovid describes the place of his banishment, Tomi, on the Euxine sea, as enjoying a winter even more rigorous than that of Petersburg or Stockholm; but Tournefort, who visited the same country, says, that there is not a finer climate in the world. He remarks, that nothing but Ovid's melancholy could have induced him to paint the country in such horrid colours. But I think the facts mentioned by the Poet are too circumstantial to admit of such an interpretation. p. 553.

^h Herodot. Clio. Ed. fol. Gronovii, p. 78.



